

REMARKS

Prior to this communication, claims 1 – 5, 7 – 19, and 21 – 28 were pending. The pending Action indicated claims 1 – 5, 7 – 19, and 21 – 28 were rejected. Examination and reconsideration in view of the following remarks are respectfully requested.

103(a) Rejections

Independent Claim 1 and Dependent Claims 4, 5, and 7 – 10

Claims 1, 4, 5, and 7 – 10 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent Application Publication Number 2002/0167444 (“Lee”) in view of U.S. Patent Number 6,934,546 (“Corbett et al.”).

Claim 1 recites a method of locating an immobile target fixedly positioned at a location via a mobile base that includes, among other things, “transmitting a first wireless signal from the mobile base at a first time,” and “receiving the first wireless signal at the immobile target fixedly positioned at the location.”

Lee discloses a position estimating method that includes estimating an angle of arrival of a signal from a mobile terminal at a fixed, immobile base station (e.g., base stations 502) serving a fixed geographical area through which mobile terminals (e.g., cell phones 501) pass. Thus, Lee only discloses an immobile station that estimates a position of mobile terminals. Particularly, Lee does not teach or suggest, among other things, “transmitting a first wireless signal from the mobile base at a first time,” and “receiving the first wireless signal at the immobile target fixedly positioned at the location,” as recited in claim 1.

Corbett et al. does not cure the deficiencies of Lee.

Corbett et al. discloses radio-communication systems that can improve soft handoff capabilities. Particularly, the radio-communication systems include “mobile stations M1-M10 [that] communicate with the fixed part of a public switched telephone network (PSTN) by transmitting radio signals to, and receiving radio signals from, cellular base stations B1-B10.” (Col. 1, lines 12 – 15.) A cell is a geographical area of radio coverage reached by a cellular base station such as the cellular base stations 400, 410 in FIGS. 1 – 4, and 9 of

Corbett et al., which renders the base stations 400, 410 immobile. Accordingly, Corbett et al. does not overcome the deficiency of Lee with respect to the “transmitting a first wireless signal from the mobile base at a first time” limitation of claim 1.

Accordingly, neither Lee nor Corbett et al., either alone or in combination, teaches or suggests claim 1. Applicant requests withdrawal of the rejection of claim 1. Claims 4, 5, and 7 – 10 depend from claim 1, and therefore, are allowable for at least the reasons set forth above.

Dependent Claims 2 and 3

Claims 2 and 3 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lee in view of Corbett et al. and U.S. Patent Number 6,167,240 (“Carlsson et al.”). These claims depend from claim 1, and are patentable for the reasons set forth above.

Carlsson et al. is primarily focused on improving how signals are processed within a standard, traditional cell phone environment with a fixed geographical area through which mobile units (e.g., automobiles) pass. Carlsson et al. makes no mention of moving the base stations to locate immobile targets. As such, Carlsson et al. does not teach or suggest “transmitting a first wireless signal from the mobile base at a first time,” as recited in claim 1. Therefore, Carlsson et al. does not overcome the deficiencies of Lee and Corbett et al. with respect to the “transmitting a first wireless signal from the mobile base at a first time” limitation of claim 1.

Dependent Claims 11

Claim 11 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lee “in view of Corbett and Corbett et al. (US 6,934,546).” Because there is no Corbett reference, we take this as a rejection based on Lee in view of Corbett et al. For at least the same reasons set forth above, claim 11, which depends from allowable claim 1, is patentable.

Independent Claim 12 and Dependent Claims 15 – 20

Claims 12 and 15 – 20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lee in view of Corbett et al. and U.S. Patent Number 6,025,799 (“Ho et al.”).

Claim 12 recites a “method of locating an immobile target fixedly positioned at a location from a mobile base” that includes “omni-directionally transmitting the activating signal from the omni-directional means at a first time while moving the mobile base.” As noted above with respect to claim 1, neither Lee nor Corbett et al. teaches or suggests a mobile base. Accordingly, neither Lee nor Corbett et al. teaches the “omni-directionally transmitting the activating signal from the omni-directional means at a first time while moving the mobile base” limitation of claim 12.

Ho et al. does not cure the deficiency of Lee and Corbett et al.

Rather, Ho et al. discloses, with reference to FIG. 1, “a roadway with vehicular traffic travelling from lower left to upper right over two lanes between gantry uprights 12L and 12R. At each is an antenna array, 14L, 14R respectively.” (Col. 2, lines 37 – 40.) The gantry uprights appear to be immobile, and Ho et al. makes no suggestion and provides no motivation to make them mobile (not an “immobile target” as recited). The vehicle being located is traveling or mobile. Therefore, claim 12 and dependent claims 15 – 20 are allowable for at least the reasons set forth above.

Independent Claim 12, and Dependent Claims 13, and 21 – 28

Claims 12, 13, and 21 – 28 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lee in view of Corbett et al., Ho et al., and Carlsson et al.

As noted above with respect to claim 12, neither Lee, Corbett et al., nor Ho et al., either alone or in combination, teaches or suggests, all limitations of claim 12. Particularly, neither Lee, Corbett et al., nor Ho et al. teaches or suggests “the mobile base” as recited in claim 12. Also as noted above with respect to claim 1, Carlsson et al. does not teach or suggest a mobile base either. As such, Carlsson et al. does not cure the deficiency of Lee, Corbett et al., and Ho et al. Claim 12 is patentable over Lee, Corbett et al., Ho et al., and Carlsson et al. Claim 13 depends from claim 12, and therefore, is allowable.

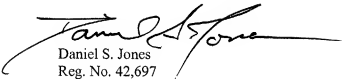
Claim 21 recites, among other things, “transmitting a wireless activating signal from the mobile base at a first time.”

As noted above with respect to claim 12, neither Lee, Corbett et al., Ho et al., nor Carlsson et al., either alone or in combination, teaches or suggests "the mobile base" as recited in claim 12. Accordingly, neither Lee, Corbett et al., Ho et al., nor Carlsson et al., either alone or in combination, teaches or suggests "transmitting a wireless activating signal from the mobile base at a first time," as recited in claim 21. As such, claim 21 is patentable over Lee, Corbett et al., Ho et al., and Carlsson et al. Claims 22 - 28, which depend from claim 21, and therefore, are allowable.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above remarks, the Applicant respectfully requests entry of this response and allowance of claims 1 - 5, 7 - 19, and 21 - 28. The undersigned is available for telephone consultation during normal business hours. Applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

Respectfully submitted,



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